

10 March 2006
Friday

READINGS

Psalm 51; Genesis 40:1-23; 1Corinthians 3:16-23; Mark 2:13-22

DEVOTION

As a young girl, one of my favorite movies was The Wizard of Oz. There is a character in the movie with whom almost everyone can identify. My favorite is the Tin-Man – pleadingly singing “If I Only Had a Heart”. The Tin-Man wanted to be “kinda human”. He recognized this unique characteristic of human beings – the ability to care for one another; to share the hurts and the joys; to love!

When David pleaded with God to “create in me a clean heart, O God”, he wasn’t praying simply to have his old heart restored – he wanted it regenerated! The Hebrew word for “create” is bara, which means “to create something out of nothing”. When God created the heavens and the earth in Genesis 1:1, the same word bara is used – God dynamically created something beautiful out of nothing. With great assurance and confidence, David took his sin and his guilt and laid it all before the Lord. He desired that brand-new beginning of being re-created through the Lord’s mercy and love.

God called David “a man after his own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14). [And many of us are familiar with today’s popular book by Elizabeth George, “Woman after God’s Own Heart”.] Even though like David, we all sin daily, I am convinced that our Lord loves for us to continually communicate our desire, like the Tin-Man, to create a clean heart in us. And for what purpose? So that we may be “kinda human” -- so that we may be restored to the joy of His salvation -- and then go out and share this joy with others. That is the true meaning of Lent for me, and the purpose of the cross: to make a way for us to know constant fellowship with our God and Lord, through new mercies and grace each morning, and to live in the bright and beautiful joy of his salvation.

Father, how blessed I am to have the chance to live each day with a brand-new heart...a pure heart...a supernaturally regenerated heart full of the breath of your Spirit. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and restore to me the joy of your salvation.

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